

July - 1904

Nine - 1904

Drawn 29.

71. 2007 02. 25. 1904

Curios and Relics

Furniture

Desk

Owned by Ninian Edwards

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Byman



LINCOLN LIFE

Beulah Brown Fletcher
Columbus Indiana

Referred to _____

REC'D FEB 13 1935

Answered 2/14/35

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

President,
Lincoln National Insurance Co.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana
My Dear Sir-

In the Washington News and several magazines I have noticed the inclosed advertisement for the John Hancock Insurance Company.

I am wondering if the Lincoln Company would be interested in buying a solid walnut desk in front of which Lincoln was married to Mary Todd, at the home of her brother-in-law Ninian Edwards. The desk was in the Edwards' home and Lincoln wrote on it many times.

The desk was inherited by Mrs. Furgeson, of Springfield, Ill., who died in that city at an advanced age about three years ago. It was willed to her by her father, Ninian Edward Edwards, with the imperative request that it never be sold because of its historic significance.

Mrs. Furgeson's chaffeur and service man was Robert Clawson. He lived with her family for years and attended to all errands of Mrs. Furgeson and personally escorted her to church and on shopping tours. He inherited money from Mrs. Furgeson and also the desk, which he promised never to sell.

Bob Clawson is now the chaffeur for Mr. and Mrs. Edward Seward, Bates Avenue, Springfield, Ill. Mr. Seward is a brother of my brother-in-law, Robert A Seward, secretary-manager, of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Bob Clawson frequently drives the Swards over here and I visit at the Seward home in Springfield. He learned that I have a collection of antiques and gave me the desk. I have had it three years. I feel that it is a historic piece and much too valuable to be in a private home. I want to sell it. There are no restrictions on my disposing of it for cash. It is a solid walnut slant top desk, with finely reeded stretcher and claw feet. The handles to small drawers are inlaid with mother o'pearl. It is not a book-case desk or Governor Winthrop as is pictured here. A connoisseur would know that the Gov. Winthrop type desk would not be of the style used in Lincoln's time. A large ink-spot on the green is where Lincoln tipped over the ink bottle. I was cautioned not to have this removed, and I have not.

If you are at all interested, shall be pleased to hear from you soon.

Yours Very Truly,

Beulah Brown Fletcher

Beulah Brown Fletcher

February 11, 1935

Can furnish affidavits.



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